

Attached is a copy of the complete resolution. We thank you for your efforts on this issue and look forward to working with you and your staff as this proposal moves forward.

Sincerely,

LYNNE BRADLEY,
Director, ALA Office of
Government Relations.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, Jan. 14, 1998.

RESOLUTION ON CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH
SERVICE PUBLICATIONS

Whereas, equitable and timely access to information created by the government is an important tenet of a free and democratic society; and

Whereas, Title 44 of the U.S. Code mandates provision of publications to Federal Depository Libraries; and

Whereas, the 104th and 105th Congresses have made a concerted effort to increase public access to Congressional information through the Internet; and

Whereas, the Congressional Research Service (CRS) produces reports and information products at the request of Members of Congress; and

Whereas, CRS reports are well researched and balanced products addressing a wide variety of current issues; and

Whereas, the CRS produces and Congress releases reports that are not made available to the Government Printing Office for distribution to Federal Depository Libraries nor made available to the public on the Internet; and

Whereas, many of these reports are released to various individuals or groups by Members of Congress but not made available to the public; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the American Library Association urge that the Joint Committee on the Library, the Senate Rules and Administration Committee, and the House Oversight Committee take immediate action to assure that publicly released Congressional Research Service reports and information products are distributed in a timely manner to the general public through Federal Depository Libraries and on the Internet.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association, New Orleans, LA, January 14, 1998.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased to join today with Senator MCCAIN to submit a Senate resolution to provide Internet Access to important Congressional documents.

Our bipartisan resolution makes certain Congressional Research Service products, lobbyist disclosure reports and Senate gift disclosure reports available over the Internet to the American people.

The Congressional Research Service, CRS, has a well-known reputation for producing high-quality reports and information briefs that are unbiased, concise, and accurate. The taxpayers of this country, who pay \$67 million a year to fund the CRS, deserve speedy access to these public resources and have a right to see that their money is being spent well.

The goal of our legislation is to allow every citizen the same access to the wealth of CRS information as a Member of Congress enjoys today. CRS performs invaluable research and produces

first-rate reports on hundreds of topics. American taxpayers have every right to direct access to these wonderful resources.

Online CRS reports will serve an important role in informing the public. Members of the public will be able to read these CRS products and receive a concise, accurate summary of the issues before the Congress. As elected representatives, we should do what we can to promote an informed, educated public. The educated voter is best able to make decisions and petition us to do the right things here in Congress.

Our legislation follows the model online CRS program in the House of Representatives and ensures that private CRS products will remain protected by giving the CRS Director the authority to hold back any products that are deemed confidential. Moreover, the Director may protect the identity of CRS researchers and any copyrighted material. We can do both—protect confidential material and empower our citizens through electronic access to invaluable CRS products.

In addition, the bipartisan resolution would provide public online access to lobbyist reports and gift disclosure forms. At present, these public records are available in the Senate Office of Public Records in Room 232 of the Hart Building. As a practical matter, these public records are accessible only to those inside the Beltway.

I applaud the Office of Public Records for recently making technological history in the Senate by providing for lobbying registrations through the Internet. The next step is to provide the completed lobbyist disclosure reports on the Internet for all Americans to see.

The Internet offers us a unique opportunity to allow the American people to have everyday access to this public information. Our bipartisan legislation would harness the power of the Information Age to allow average citizens to see these public records of the Senate in their official form, in context and without editorial comment. All Americans should have timely access to the information that we already have voted to give them.

And all of these reports are indeed “public” for those who can afford to hire a lawyer or lobbyist or who can afford to travel to Washington to come to the Office of Public Records in the Hart Building and read them. That is not very public. That does not do very much for the average voter in Vermont or the rest of this country outside of easy reach of Washington. That does not meet the spirit in which we voted to make these materials public, when we voted “disclosure” laws.

We can do better, and this resolution does better. Any citizen in any corner of this country with access to a computer at home or the office or at the public library will be able to get on the

Internet and get these important Congressional documents under our resolution. It allows individual citizens to check the facts, to make comparisons, and to make up their own minds.

I commend the Senior Senator from Arizona for his leadership on opening public access to Congressional documents. I share his desire for the American people to have electronic access to many more Congressional resources. I look forward to working with him in the days to let the information age open up the halls of Congress to all our citizens.

As Thomas Jefferson wrote, “Information is the currency of democracy.” Our democracy is stronger if all citizens have equal access to at least that type of currency, and that is something which Members on both sides of the aisle can celebrate and join in.

This bipartisan resolution is an important step in informing and empowering American citizens. I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this legislation to make available useful Congressional information to the American people.

SENATE RESOLUTION 22—URGING
THE APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO INTRODUCE AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION A RESOLUTION CALLING UPON THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO END ITS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN CHINA AND TIBET, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. HUTCHINSON (for himself, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. HELMS, Mr. TORRICELLI, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. KYL, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. SANTORUM) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

S. RES. 22

Whereas the annual meeting of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland, provides a forum for discussing human rights and expressing international support for improved human rights performance;

Whereas, according to the Department of State and international human rights organizations, the Government of the People's Republic of China continues to commit widespread and well-documented human rights abuses in China and Tibet;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has yet to demonstrate its willingness to abide by internationally accepted norms of freedom of belief, expression, and association by repealing or amending laws and decrees that restrict those freedoms;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China continues to ban and criminalize groups it labels as cults or heretical organizations;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has repressed unregistered

religious congregations and spiritual movements, including Falun Gong, and persists in persecuting persons on the basis of unauthorized religious activities using such measures as harassment, prolonged detention, physical abuse, incarceration, and closure or destruction of places of worship;

Whereas authorities in the People's Republic of China have continued their efforts to extinguish expressions of protest or criticism, have detained scores of citizens associated with attempts to organize a peaceful opposition, to expose corruption, to preserve their ethnic minority identity, or to use the Internet for the free exchange of ideas, and have sentenced many citizens so detained to harsh prison terms;

Whereas Chinese authorities continue to exert control over religious and cultural institutions in Tibet, abusing human rights through instances of torture, arbitrary arrest, and detention of Tibetans without public trial for peacefully expressing their political or religious views;

Whereas bilateral human rights dialogues between several nations and the People's Republic of China have yet to produce substantial adherence to international norms; and

Whereas the People's Republic of China has signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, but has yet to take the steps necessary to make the treaty legally binding: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) at the 57th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Switzerland, the appropriate representative of the United States should solicit cosponsorship for a resolution calling upon the Government of the People's Republic of China to end its human rights abuses in China and Tibet, in compliance with its international obligations; and

(2) the United States Government should take the lead in organizing multilateral support to obtain passage by the Commission of such resolution.

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I rise today to submit a resolution, along with my colleague Senator WELLSTONE, calling on the Administration to introduce a resolution at the upcoming meeting of the United Nations (U.N.) Human Rights Commission highlighting China's human rights abuses. This Senate resolution makes a simple statement. The U.S. should lead the effort in Geneva to speak for freedom in China, both by introducing a resolution and by garnering the support of key cosponsors.

Mr. President, in a report issued just two days ago, Amnesty International documented the extensive use of torture in China. According to the report, "Torture is widespread and systemic, committed in the full range of state institutions, from police stations to 're-education through labour' camps, as well as in people's homes, workplaces, and in public . . . Victims can be anyone from criminal suspects, political dissidents, workers and innocent bystanders to officials." The common occurrence of torture points to a wider trend—China's human rights record is appalling. The Chinese government continues to repress any voice it perceives to be a threat to its power—reli-

gious groups, democracy activists, people trying to expose corruption, people trying to use the Internet for the free exchange of ideas—anyone who will not bow to the government. I expect that the State Department's annual report on human rights, which will be issued soon, will once again confirm this trend.

The destruction of places of worship is nothing new in China. But in recent months, scores of churches have been destroyed, in what some experts have described as the most destructive crackdown since the Cultural Revolution. Beginning in November, in counties around Wenzhou, over 700 churches have been destroyed. Over two hundred others have either been banned or taken for other purposes. I am disturbed by this worsening campaign against religious believers in China. The Chinese government has also stepped up its campaign against spiritual movements like the Falun Gong and Zhong Gong, not only imprisoning leaders but also sentencing marginal followers to lengthy terms and penalizing family members of practitioners.

Pro-democracy activists, including Xu Wenli, one of the founders of the China Democracy Party, are still languishing in prison for legally and peacefully expressing their views. Huang Qi, a middle class computer user and an Internet webmaster, is on trial for subverting state power simply because he posted information about topics like the democracy movement and the Tiananmen Square Massacre. He could face ten years in prison. This attempt to control Internet usage should be of great concern to the international community, especially those who have touted the Internet as a revolutionizing force in China.

Mr. President, all of these human rights abuses point to a much needed response—a resolution at the U.N. Human Rights Commission. There is no more appropriate place for highlighting these abuses in a multilateral setting, because this multilateral forum was established just for this purpose. If we do not use this forum for bringing up obvious abuses, then we undercut its very viability. The U.S. has traditionally led the effort on China's human rights abuses. This year should be no different. China is already intensely lobbying other countries to defeat any such resolution. We must begin as soon as possible to obtain support for a resolution.

I understand that the Administration is in the process of deciding whether to advance a resolution at Geneva. I hope that they will look to the Congress and understand that there is broad support for a Geneva resolution. This Administration has the opportunity to set a tone for its approach to China and all of Asia. If the mistake of the Clinton Administration was bowing to China's demands and centering its efforts in

Asia around China, then the Bush Administration has the chance to stand firm, to be skeptical of the Chinese government's offers and promises. I urge the Administration not to look at China's offer of ratifying the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, as anything an empty promise—a distraction that will quickly fade away once the Commission meeting is over.

Finally, Mr. President, last year when the Senate and Congress as a whole passed PNTR for China, proponents argued that passage of PNTR in no way signified a diminished concern for human rights. I believe that now is the time to demonstrate this continuing concern for human rights. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 23—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD AWARD THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM POSTHUMOUSLY TO DR. BENJAMIN ELIJAH MAYS IN HONOR OF HIS DISTINGUISHED CAREER AS AN EDUCATOR, CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS LEADER, AND PUBLIC THEOLOGIAN

Mr. CLELAND (for himself, Mr. MILLER, and Mr. HOLLINGS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, as follows:

S. RES. 23

Whereas Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays, throughout his distinguished career of more than half a century as an educator, civil and human rights leader, and public theologian, has inspired people of all races throughout the world by his persistent commitment to excellence;

Whereas Benjamin Mays persevered, despite the frustrations inherent in segregation, to begin an illustrious career in education;

Whereas as dean of the School of Religion of Howard University and later as President of Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, for 27 years, Benjamin Mays overcame seemingly insurmountable obstacles to offer quality education to all Americans, especially African Americans;

Whereas at the commencement of World War II, when most colleges suffered from a lack of available students and the demise of Morehouse College appeared imminent, Benjamin Mays prevented the college from permanently closing its doors by vigorously recruiting potential students and thereby aiding in the development of future generations of African American leaders;

Whereas Benjamin Mays was instrumental in the elimination of segregated public facilities in Atlanta, Georgia, and promoted the cause of nonviolence through peaceful student protests during a time in this Nation that was often marred by racial violence;

Whereas Benjamin Mays received numerous accolades throughout his career, including 56 honorary degrees from universities across the United States and abroad and the naming of 7 schools and academic buildings and a street in his honor; and